(a) the global price of crude oil in August, 2004;

(b) the domestic price of petrol, diesel and LPG in August, 2004;

(c) the global price of crude oil as on 28th January, 2009; and

(d) the domestic price of petrol, diesel and LPG as on 29th January, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The average price of the Indian Basket of Crude Oil in August, 2004 was $40.53 per barrel.

(b) The Retail Selling Prices (RSPs) of Petrol, Diesel and Domestic LPG in August, 2004 (at Delhi) were as under:

		RSP (at Delhi)
Petrol	Rs./litre	36.81
Diesel	Rs./litre	24.16
Domestic LPG	Rs./cylinder	261.60

(c) The price of Indian Basket of crude oil on 28th January, 2009 was $42.53 per barrel.

(d) The RSPs of Petrol, Diesel and Domestic LPG as on 29th January, 2009 (at Delhi) were as under:

		RSP (at Delhi)
Petrol	Rs./litre	40.62
Diesel	Rs./litre	30.86
Domestic LPG	Rs./cylinder	279.70*

*After considering subsidy by Delhi State Government of Rs.40/- per cylinder.

PNG supply in Delhi

790. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received by Indraprastha Gas Ltd. for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) pipeline inside the premises of Alaknanda Societies or DDA flats;

(b) the total length of gas pipeline proposed to be laid for the purpose;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in laying the gas pipeline specially when the entire area of Alaknanda does not fall within ambit of Commonwealth Games;

(d) the steps taken to expedite the job; and

(e) by when the work/project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has received 1006 applications from residents for provision of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections inside the premises of Alaknanda Societies from November 2008 onwards.

(b) To provide connectivity to the areas of Alaknanda Societies, about 2 km of pipeline is required to be laid outside the premises of the Societies. In addition, a network of approximately 14 km of underground pipeline is required to be laid inside the premises of the Societies.

(c) To provide PNG connection to residents of Alaknanda Societies, Chitranjan Park, Greater Kailash & Kalkaji areas, IGL has applied to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for road cutting permission to lay 4 km of underground pipelines. However, IGL has not received the said permission, thus causing delay in start of work of laying the pipelines.

(d) IGL is in an advanced state of preparedness to start the work. IGL has held several rounds of meetings with MCD to pursue the matter of road cutting permission.

(e) The work of providing PNG connections to interested residents of Alaknanda Apartment shall be completed within six months of the receipt of necessary digging permission from MCD.

Partnership with Saudi Arabia in oil and energy sector

791. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made a strong pitch for participating in exploration of oil and gas in Saudi Arabia whose King during his visit to India, had agreed for it, including in the field of energy;

(b) if so, whether External Affairs Minister and the King had held meeting during which he sought transformation of bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia from buyer-seller to one of partnership;

(c) if so, to what extent Saudi Arabia has agreed to help and assist India in oil and energy sector;

(d) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Indian side remains in touch with Saudi authorities with regard to participation in oil and gas exploration in Saudi Arabia whenever such an opportunity arises. However, at present participation of foreign companies in exploration of oil in Saudi Arabia is not allowed. Also, Saudi authorities have not allowed any participation in gas exploration since the 2003 Strategic Gas initiative in which ONGC Videsh Ltd. had participated.

(b) During the official visit of Minister of External Affairs to Saudi Arabia in April, 2008 extensive talks were held with King of Saudi Arabia. External Affairs Minister expressed India's keen desire to transform the bilateral ties from buyer-seller relationship to one of partnership.